

He loved you all. Thank you for being very nice to him. This is closure, and we do appreciate it as a family. After September 11, we didn't feel that it was appropriate, so we are glad this happened. I did learn something myself today. My father always told me he didn't want to print his prayers because he wanted to save taxpayer money. But I wish he would have printed them, because right now they are going through the whole house, and my mother saved every prayer. Every day he would bring home the Congressional Record and she would tear it out, and she would put them all in one place. I wish he would have printed them.

I want to say thank you very much. You were his flock. If my father came back right now, my family, we are a totally loving family, and we wouldn't have one question for him. We would just be happy that he was back, but we will see him some day. So thank you from him.

MRS. SARAH FORD STRIKE: I am Sarah Ford Strike, and I just got married just 4 weeks ago, so I am still getting used to my last name. But I am the youngest of the five kids, and again I want to say thank you very much for putting this together. You have all been so honorable to us and to our family, because after September 11, we thought since there are so many other tragedies in this world, let us not do this, we will honor our dad in our own special way; and you all are very nice to continue this, and we appreciate that.

My mom is in Brussels visiting our sister Marie and her family, so she is not here today. But I want to say that we are his family; but you are also his family, because you made his past 21 years here so happy. He didn't tell us about his counseling and his times of need with people, but he did tell us about the friendships; and that is what made us happy. He would come home, and it was just great.

Being five kids, almost all of us working in the District, we were able to come and visit Dad from time to time, and we would just laugh because you could not get five feet in the hallway without him stopping and talking to somebody. It didn't matter who you were or what you did. He knew everybody by name, and that is what I just hope that I have that gift, because he would just say, just remember something about that person; and it just was so special and such an intimate conversation, and then we would walk five more feet and we would get stopped again. So we cherish that.

We miss his bad jokes and we miss his humor, and we love him very much; but we are very happy because who we are is because of our dad. And we are happy that he is healthy and happy. I know he is up there. I got married, and at our wedding his spirit was with us. If you ever saw him at the White House balls or somewhere, he danced very badly, and he would do this; and I know he was up there doing the same thing, and I know he is doing it now; and I know he is happy as can be. So thank you from our family.

REVEREND CHRISTENSEN: Just to bring this then to a close, Mr. Speaker, you did talk about the fact that you remember Jim Ford's prayers. I would like to ask us now to stand, and I am going to read the last prayer that Jim Ford gave at the House of Representatives. These are those words of his final prayer, and then I will conclude with the benediction. Let us pray:

"We are grateful, O merciful God, that you are with us wherever we are and whatever we do. We know that Your spirit gives us forgiveness for the ways of our past, direction for the path ahead, and the comforting assurance that we are never alone. We gain strength from the words of the Psalmist: be

still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth, the Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge. May Your good word, O God, be with all Your people and give them the peace and confidence that You alone can give. In Your name we pray. Amen."

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord give up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

A WONDERFUL MAN

(By Stephen Horn)

Thursday, May 9, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we honored a Celebration of the Life of Dr. James D. Ford, the Chaplain Emeritus of the House of Representatives.

When we traveled to meeting with the delegations of the European Parliament, we found that Jim was a very fine companion. Jim Ford was a great teacher. When we met diplomats and officers, Jim was able to lighten up some of us who were stressed from negotiations and differences among various factions.

Jim was a fine scholar of the Bible. When we were in Israel, Jim was well versed in three of the great religions which are in Jerusalem. Before Chaplain Ford came to the House, he had been for 18 years as the Chaplain of the United States Military Academy at West Point. As a result of his experiences at West Point, he knew about youth and how they grow to be leaders for our country. When a delegation of the House met with General Wesley Clark, the Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization [NATO]. When the General met the Chaplain there was a warm hug. We saw a four star General, but, Dr. Ford remembered him as the very bright senior who was President of the Bible Society during Clark's senior year at West Point.

Dr. Ford was an effective counselor of members that work hard and often needed to be working with people under stress.

One of Jim's great adventures was when he and three volunteer cadets from West Point navigated a boat with sails, guided by the stars. The waves tossed the small boat in the North Atlantic Ocean. It was a great experience.

Jim was a people-person. When colleagues had medical operations at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Jim would come out to see us. He brought us cheer. His humor was delightful.

He will not be forgotten. Our condolences to Marcie, his wife, and Peter his eldest son, and the Ford family.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5120) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in support the Treasury and

General Government Appropriations Act of 2003, H.R. 5120.

This has been an extraordinary year for our nation, and our civil servants have responded with professionalism to the threats against our borders and assaults against our values. They certainly should be counted among our heroes. It is, therefore, most appropriate that all Federal employees, both civilians and military members, receive the same 4.1% pay raise in FY 2003.

I am also pleased with the Postal Service Appropriations Act of 2003 for it reaffirms some of the basic principles of our universal postal service—6-day mail delivery, rural delivery of mail, and maintenance of post offices in rural areas.

Since 1912, 6-day delivery of mail has been an essential service that the American public has relied upon, particularly working families that depend on the Postal Service for the timely delivery of paychecks. Ending Saturday mail deliveries would not only cause delays in the delivery of mail, but would also cause higher postal costs, due to the additional overtime that would be required to handle the resulting backlog of mail.

Another great efficiency in our country is the ability to send a letter from rural Arkansas to downtown Chicago—and have confidence in knowing it will get there. Whether you live or work in rural or urban America, the satisfaction of knowing that you can communicate provides peace of mind. Many of our communities have limited methods of communication and rely on the post office to provide the glue that binds people together. By maintaining rural post offices, we will continue to bind together our citizenry.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this appropriations bill.

FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which I chair, is conducting a series of fact finding hearings as we prepare to reauthorize the Nation's highway and mass transit programs next year.

Surface transportation and the immense infrastructure that supports our Nation's transportation system extends to every corner of this country and every Member's district. That is why we are now examining the effectiveness and funding needs of existing programs, as well as the need for any new direction that the infrastructure of our country may need into the future.

I have said many times that I am concerned about the state of the Nation's infrastructure. This concern is shared by many members of my committee.

The hearings underway in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee are serving to highlight the need for a modern, effective transportation infrastructure. Our economic health depends upon our roadways and transportation infrastructure. To ignore the physical state of these systems is to invite disruption that could have enormous economic consequences to this country.